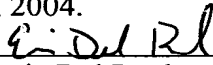


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Ishikawa et al.	)	<b>Express Mailing Certification Under 37</b>
	)	<b>CFR 1.10</b>
Serial No: Unassigned (Continuation of	)	I hereby certify that this paper is being
Serial No. 09/921,114)	)	deposited with the United States Postal
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Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned	)	Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January
	)	2, 2004.
Examiner: Not yet assigned	)	
	)	Ernie Del Real
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment in the above-identified patent application.  
Please amend the application as follows before calculating the filing fee and before  
examination on the merits:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.